

Message Text

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TAGS: MTN, GATT, ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS ON STEEL SECTORAL NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MTN GENEVA 2771

1. PARA. 2 BELOW CONTAINS TEXT OF APR. 8 KYODO REPORT ON SECTOR GROUP MEETING. THIS IS ONOY RECENT KYODO ITEM THIS SUBJECT. APRIL 9 "NIKKAN KOGYO" RAN ARTICLE OUTLINING JAPANESE VIEWS ON SECTORAL APPROACH TO STEEL. WILL CABLE TEXT AS SOON AS AVAILABLE FROM EMBASSY TRANSLATION SERVICE.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

"GENEVA APRIL 8 KYODO--IN A MOVE SUGGESTING TRADE PROTECTION-ISM, THE UNITED STATES TOLD ITS TRADING PARTNERS WEDNESDAY IT WILL SOON PROPOSE THAT STEEL BE SINGLED OUT FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT IN CURRENT INTERNATIONAL TALKS FOR FREER WORLD COMMERCE, DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAID.

"A U.S. DELEGATE TO A MEETING OF THE "SECTOR GROU" TACKLING SPECIAL PROBLEMS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, SPONSORED BY THE
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GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE (GATT), REVEALED

THE PROPOSAL WILL BE ADVANCED "IN DUE COURSE" THE SOURCES SAID.

"JAPAN, THE WORLD'S TOP STEEL EXPORTER, STRONGLY OBJECTED TO THE AMERICAN PLAN ON GROUNDS EXEMPTION OF STEEL FROM A LIST OF ITEMS FOR WHICH TARIFFS AND NONTARIFF TRADE BARRIERS SUCH AS IMPORT QUOTAS WILL BE REDUCED COULD FORCE SIMILAR TREATMENT FOR OTHER GOODS TO THE DETRIMENT OF FREE TRADE, THEY SAID.

"IN BRIEFING THE MEETING ON AMERICAN INTENTIONS TO DEMAND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION FOR STEEL, THE U.S. DELEGATE SAID THE STEEL INDUSTRY'S VULNERABILITY TO ECONOMIC FLUCTUATIONS AND OTHER PROBLEMS PECULIAR TO THE INDUSTRY MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO LIBERALIZE STEEL TRADE, THE SOURCE SAID.

"THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD ITS NEXT MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER. WITH SWEDEN AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL NATIONS AS WELL AS JAPAN AGAINST SPECIAL TREATMENT OF STEEL, THE PLANNED U.S. PROPOSAL IS EXPECTED TO SPARK HEATED DEBATE IN THE COMING MEETINGS.

"AT WEDNESDAY'S MEETING, CANADA ALSO REVEALED ITS PLAN TO INCLUDE NONFERROUS METALS IN THE SECTOR GROUP'S TOPICS, CASTING ANOTHER SHADOW OVER THE GLOBAL TRADE TALKS TO BE CONCLUDED IN 1977. END TEXT.
HOGSON

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